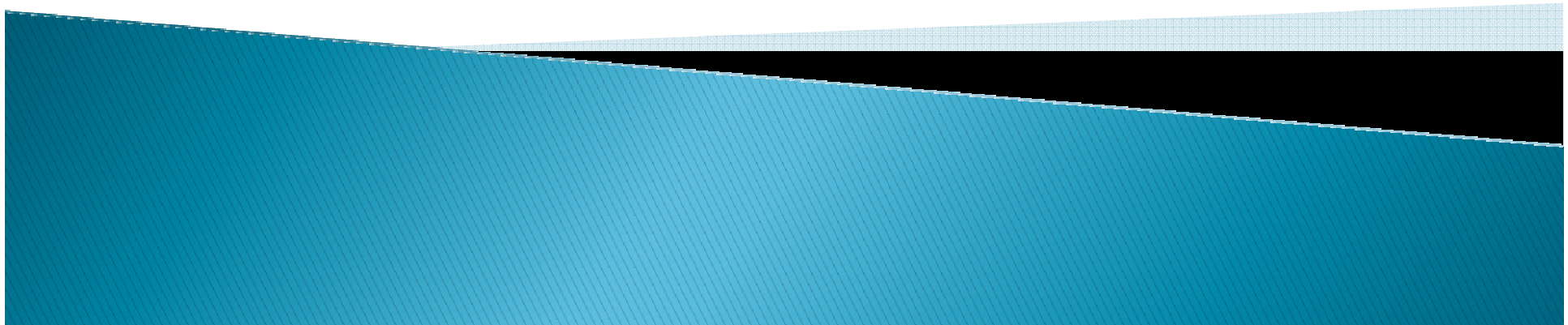
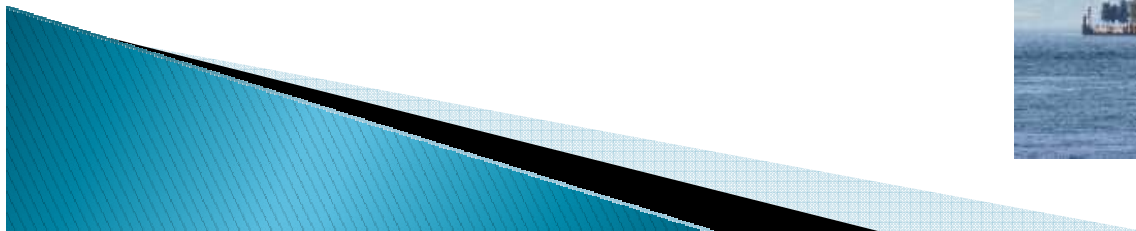


# **TURKISH-ITALIAN COOPERATION**

Prospects for Deeper and Diversified  
Partnership

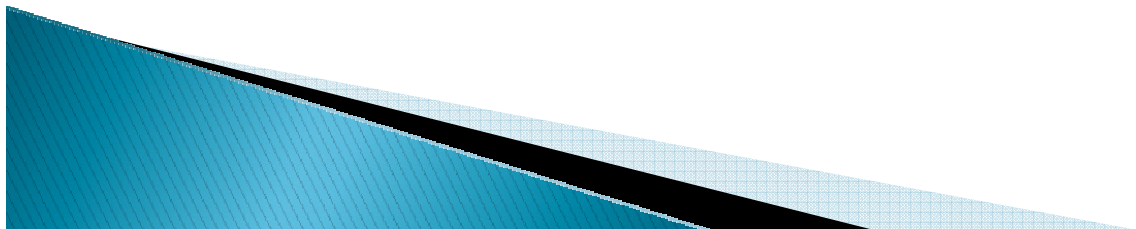
*Ms. Aylin Sekizkök*  
*Turkish Consul General in Milan*





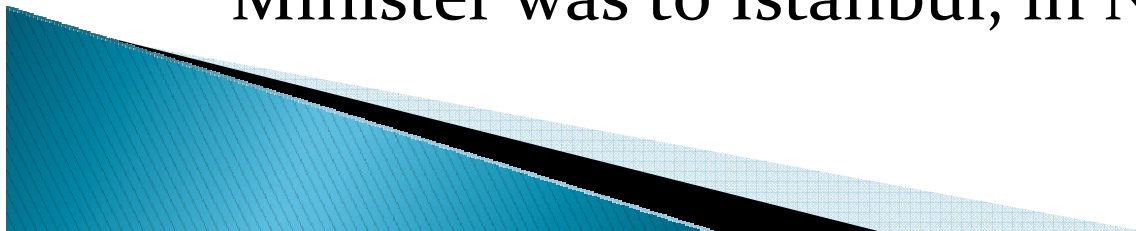
# TURKISH-ITALIAN RELATIONS

- ▶ Turkey has deep rooted historical ties with Italy.
- ▶ Italy is the second trade partner of Turkey, following Germany. Last year, our trade volume has reached 18 billion Euros.
- ▶ Big Turkish companies have strong and deep-rooted business ties with their Italian partners. Fiat has been in the Turkish market for decades. Pirelli has huge production plants in Turkey. UniCredit co-owns one of the largest banks in Turkey.



# TURKISH-ITALIAN RELATIONS

- ▶ Turks and Italians have so much in common.
- ▶ Our political relations are excellent. Italy has always been an active supporter of Turkey's EU membership.
- ▶ Our foreign policies in the greater Mediterranean region are based on the same perceptions and support each other.
- ▶ The first official visit of the new Italian Foreign Minister was to Istanbul, in November.





THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

## For Turkey, Lure of Tie to Europe Is Fading

ISTANBUL — As economic contagion tarnishes the European Union a newly assertive Turkey is increasingly looking east instead of west, and asking a vexing question: Should Turkey reject Europe before Europe rejects Turkey?

When Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the charismatic prime minister, first swept to power in 2002, he made Turkey's entry into the European Union his overriding goal. Determined to anchor the country to the West, Mr. Erdoğan's Muslim-inspired Justice and Development Party tackled thorny issues like improving minority rights and easing restrictions on free speech to move Turkey closer to Western norms.



“...over the past eight years, the team of Erdoğan and the foreign minister and academic-turned-diplomat Davutoğlu had worked relentlessly to build Turkey into a regional powerhouse.

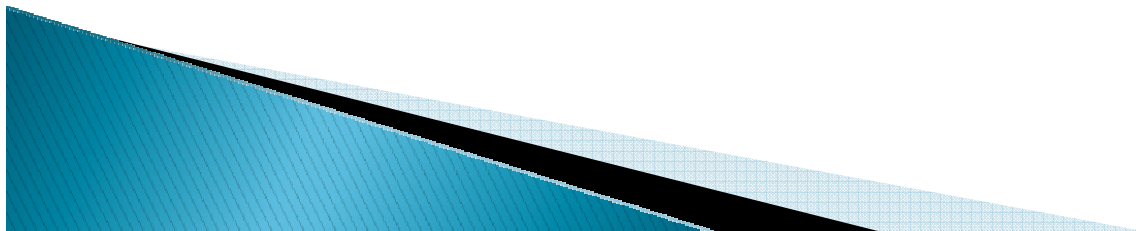
This year, with the crises of the Arab Spring, their vision came to pass as Turkey achieved a level of influence in the Middle East it has not had since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Turkey is arguably one of the few unambiguous winners in the region's upheaval so far...”



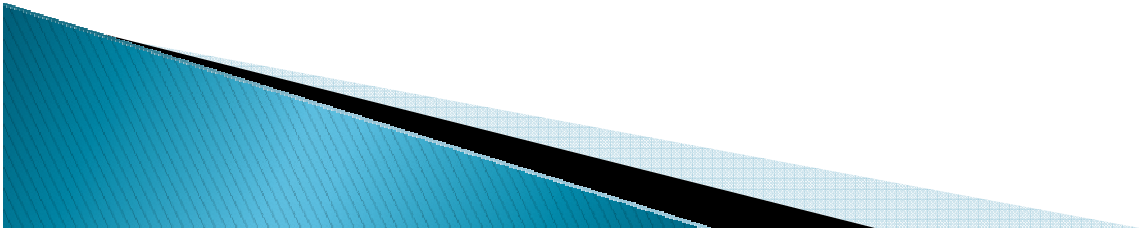


## In terms of geography

- ▶ Turkey occupies a unique space: in the midst of European, Asian and African landmass
- ▶ Turkey is European and Asian.
- ▶ It is Middle Eastern and Eurasian; a Balkan country and a Caucasian.
- ▶ Our history further enhances our multi-regional identity: We are heirs of Ottoman empire, an entity which once controlled territories spreading from Belgrade to Mekka, from Crimea to Tunisia.
- ▶ Turkey controls an area of influence in its immediate environs.

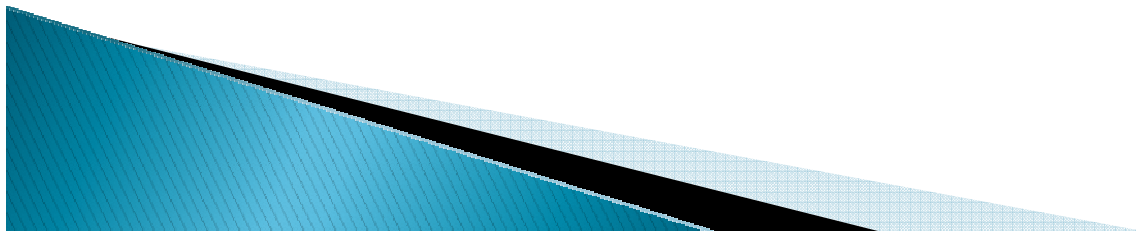




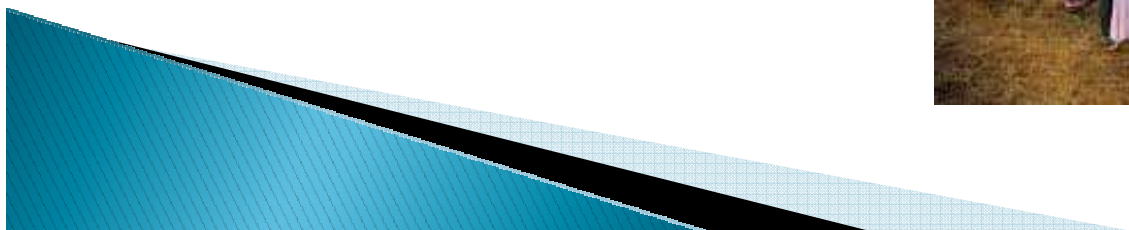




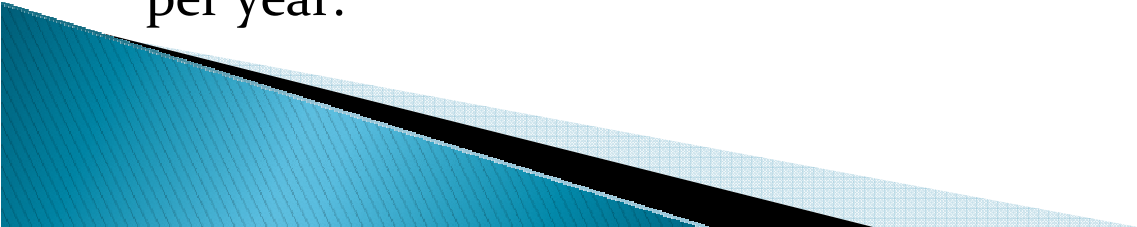
- ▶ Arabs and Turks and Bosnians and Albanians lived together for hundreds of years, creating a unique sense of shared identity and ethnic diversity.
- ▶ There are still Turkish communities more in than 30 states.
- ▶ This may be the reason why Turkish TV series have become so popular simultaneously in Jordan and Greece, in Tunisia and Croatia.



# TURKEY`S FAMOUS TV SERIALS

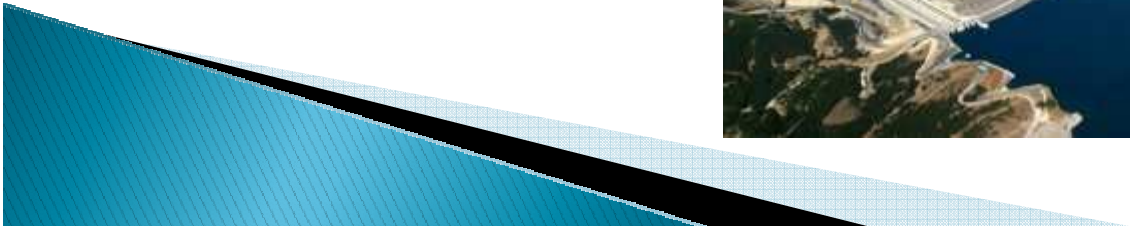


# TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

- ▶ Turkey managed to conclude a giant economic transformation, through structural reforms in all key areas: the banking sector; social security and health-care; the public finance; fiscal adjustment.
  - ▶ Today's Turkey is a country that has managed to triple its gross national income in just 10 years.
  - ▶ In 2010 Turkish economy grew by 9.0 percent. Third quarter growth rate of 2011 is 8.2 percent, occupying the first place, to be followed by China.
  - ▶ Since 2009, we were able to generate 3.5 million additional jobs, bringing down the unemployment rate to 9.2 percent.
  - ▶ Turkey is currently the 16<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. It is the sixth largest economy in Europe, and projected to be the second in 2050.
  - ▶ Turkey become a donor country itself with 1,5 billion USD assistance per year.
- 



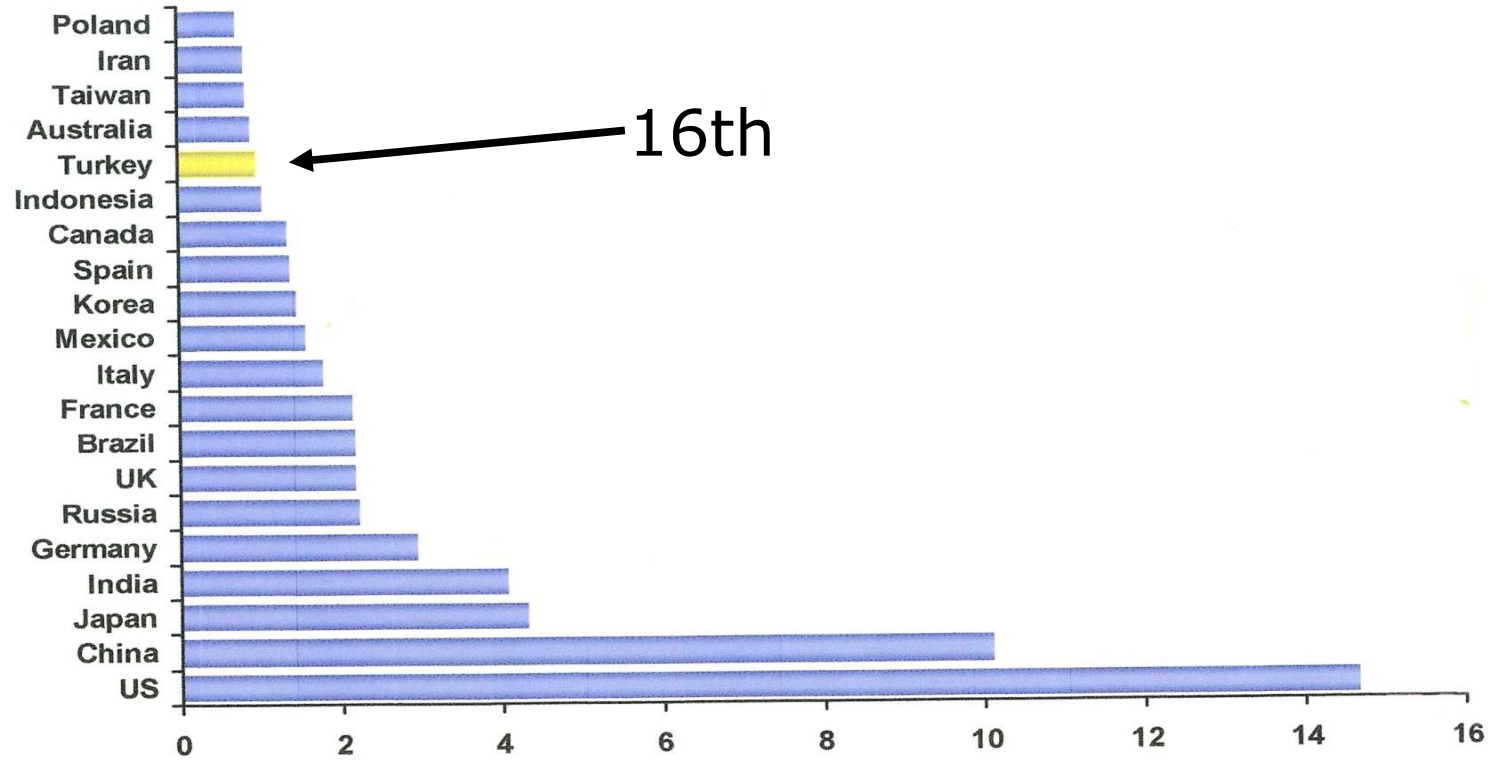
# TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE





## World's Biggest Economies

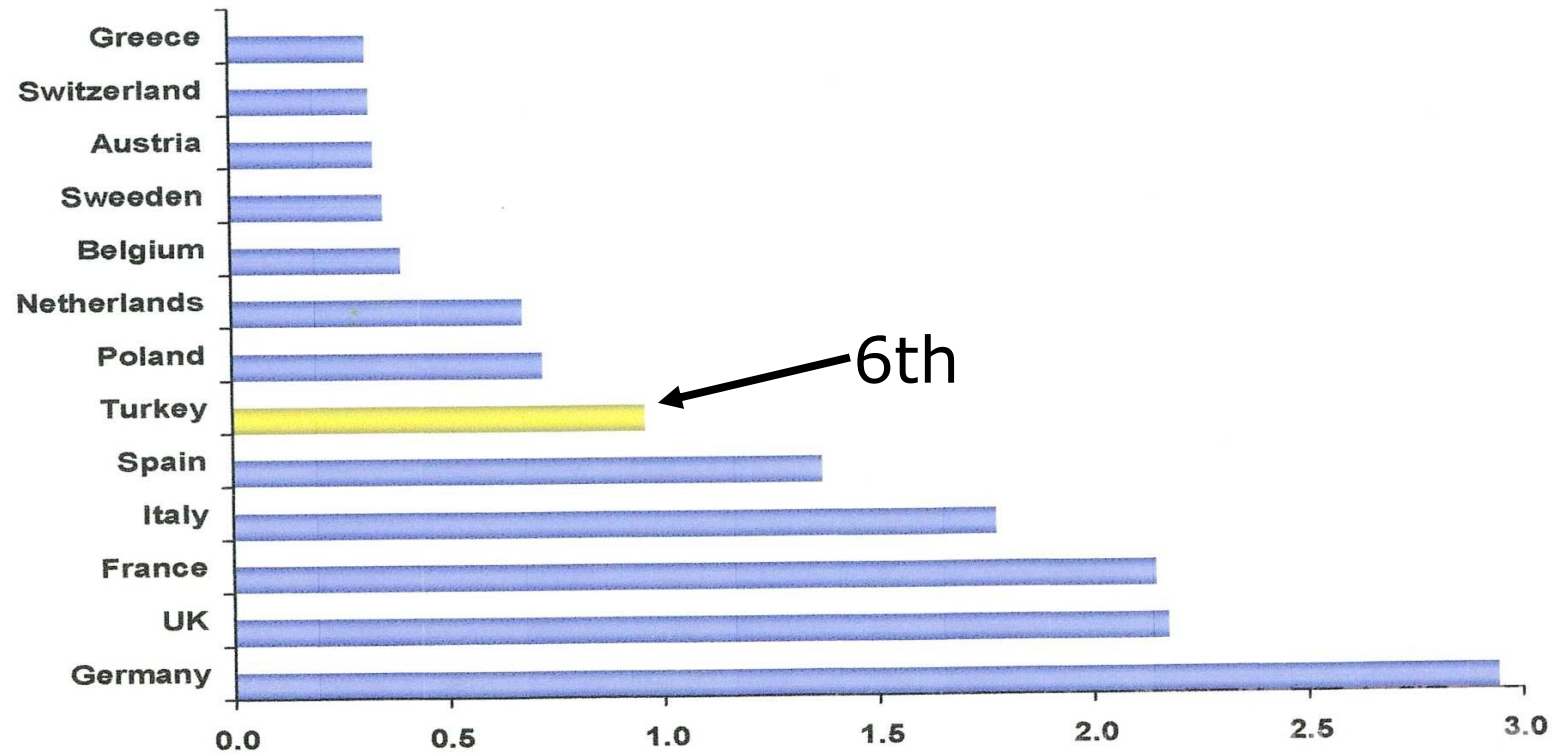
(GDP based on Purchasing Power Parity, Trillion Dolar, 2010)



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook, April 2011

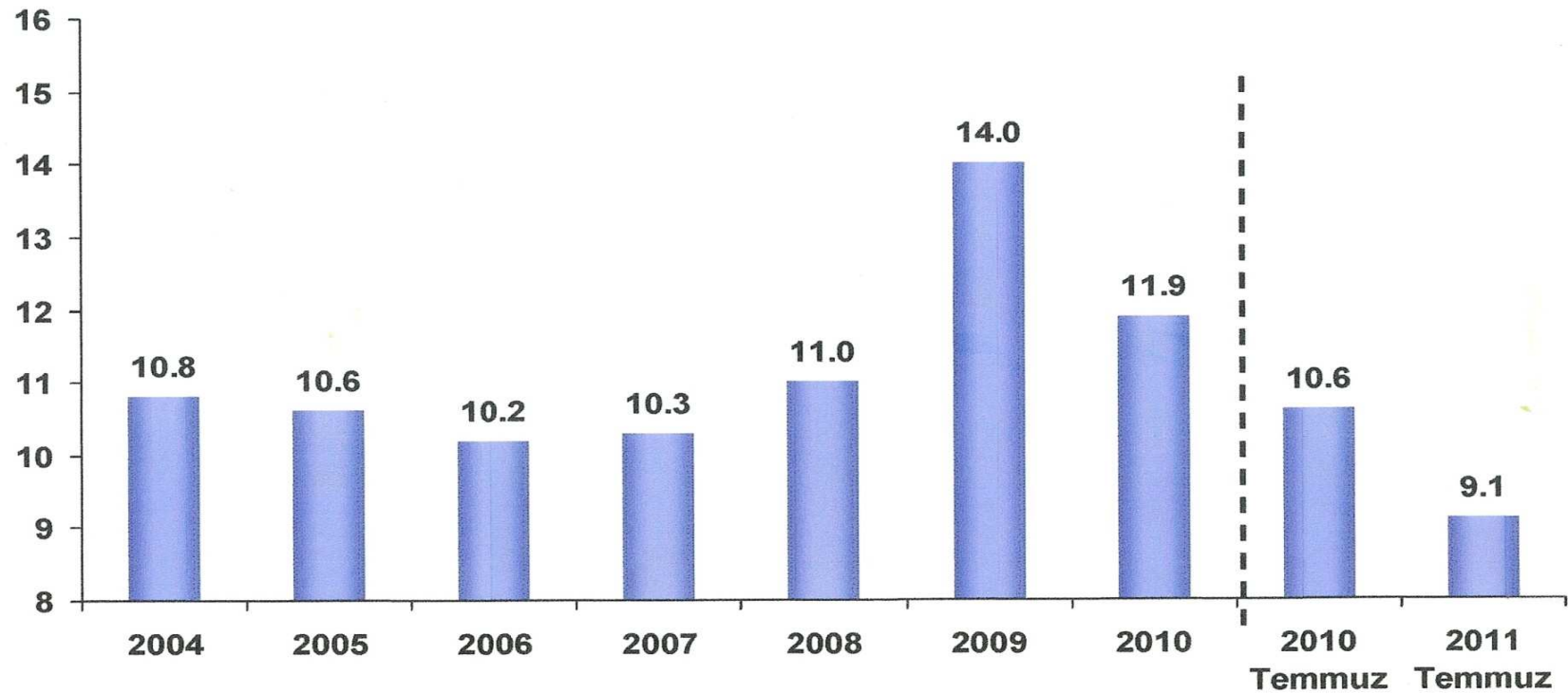
## Europe's Biggest Economies

(GDP based on Purchasing Power Parity, Trillion Dolar, 2010)



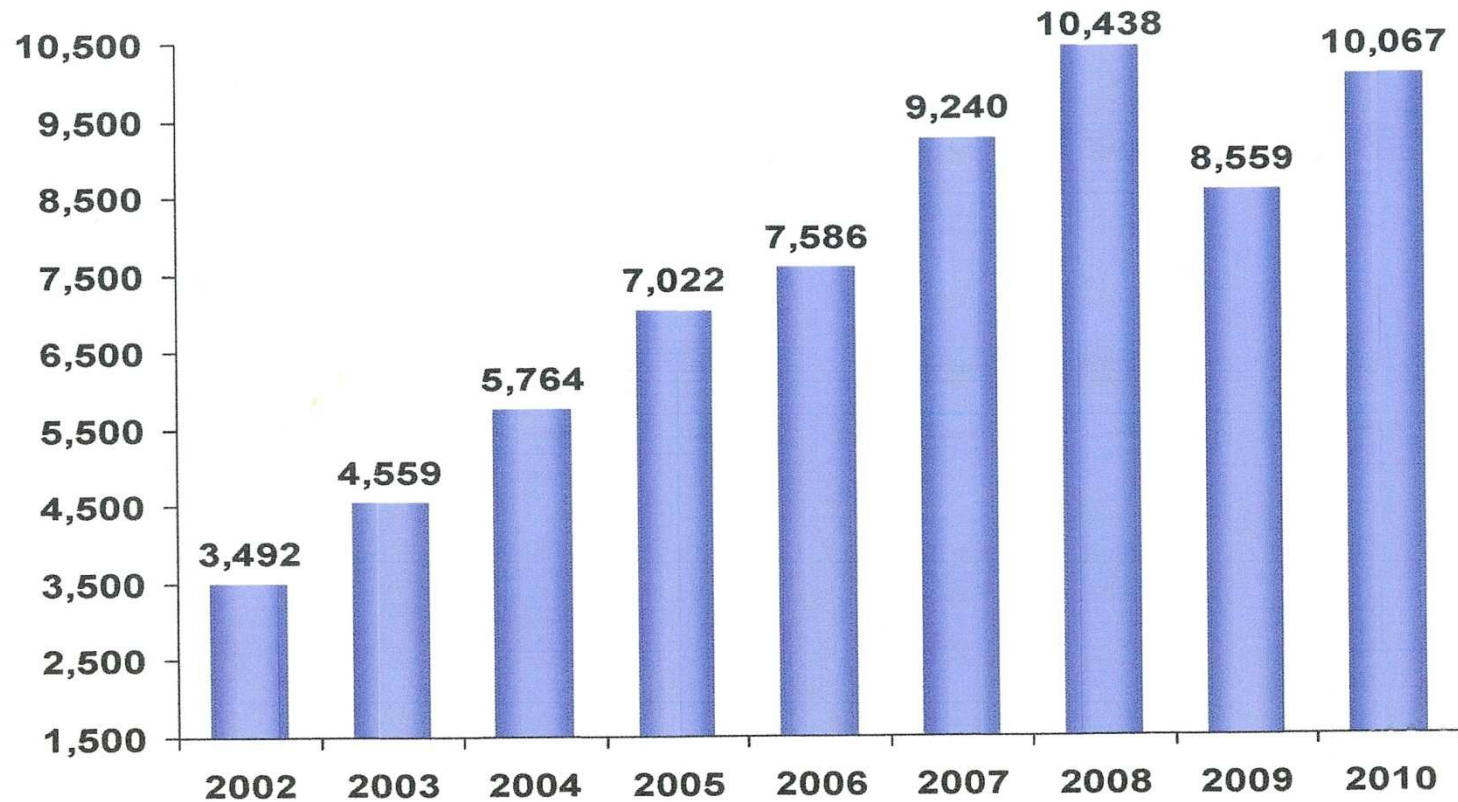
Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook, April 2011

## Unemployment Rate (%)



Source: TURKSTAT

## Per Capita GDP (USD)

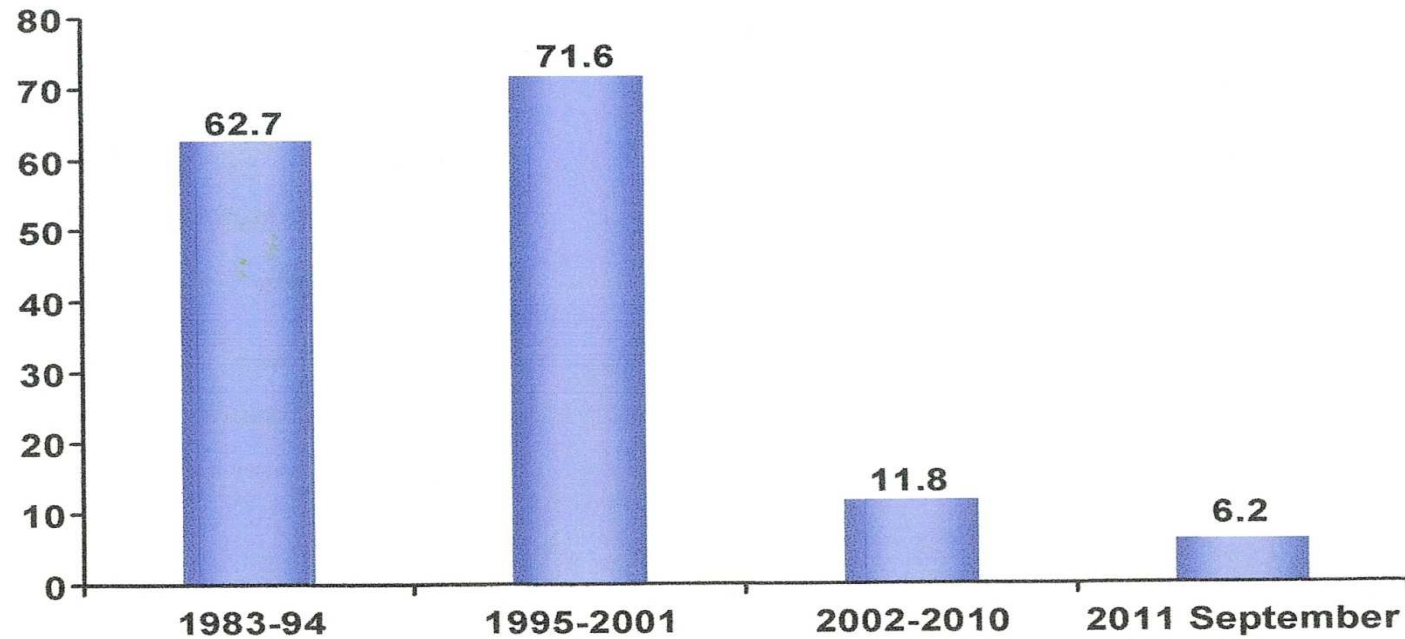


Source: TURKSTAT

**2011 obiettivo: 10.624 USD**



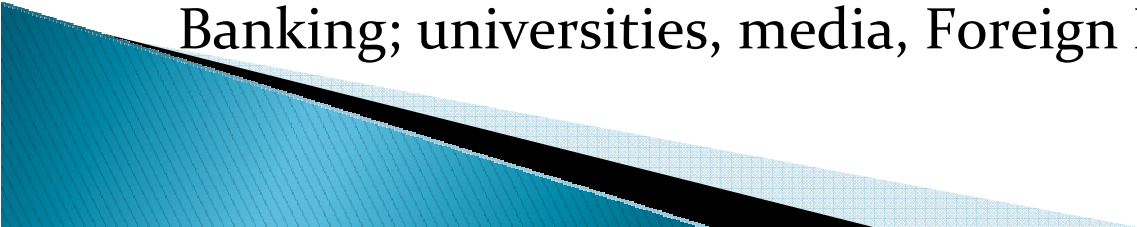
## Average Inflation in Periods (%)



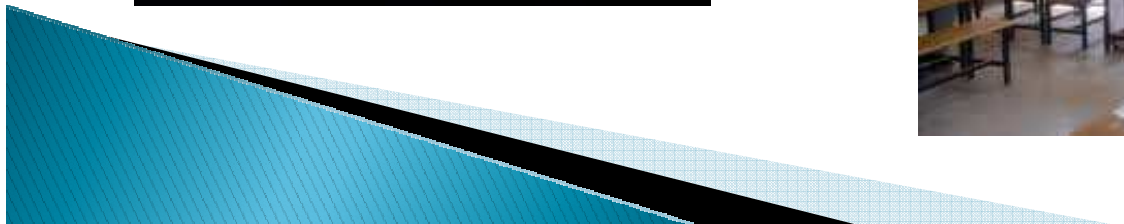
Source: TURKSTAT

2011 obiettivo: 5,3 %

# Political and Social Change

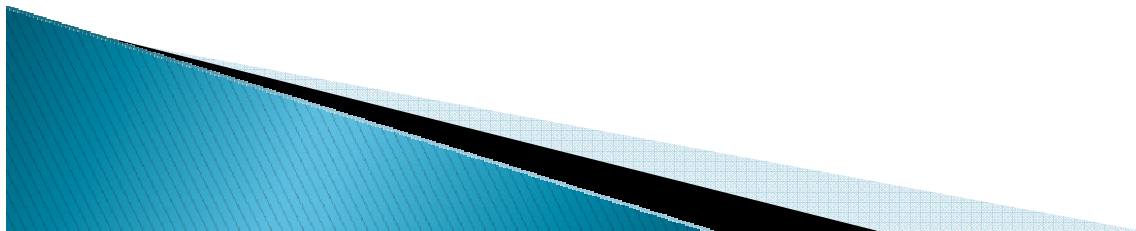
- ▶ Uninterrupted and revolutionary reform process to raise the human rights standards: New codes (penal, civic law completely amended); training of security and public officials
  - ▶ Process of democratization: new political parties law; new associations law
  - ▶ Emergence of a dynamic nongovernmental society
  - ▶ Grand reformation in the constitution
  - ▶ Civilian control over armed forces
  - ▶ Lively public discourse on very subject pertaining important political issues
  - ▶ Development of the press (hundreds of private TV channels belonging to different political and social causes)
  - ▶ Empowerment of women in the public and private sector: Banking; universities, media, Foreign Ministry
- 

# TURKEY'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE



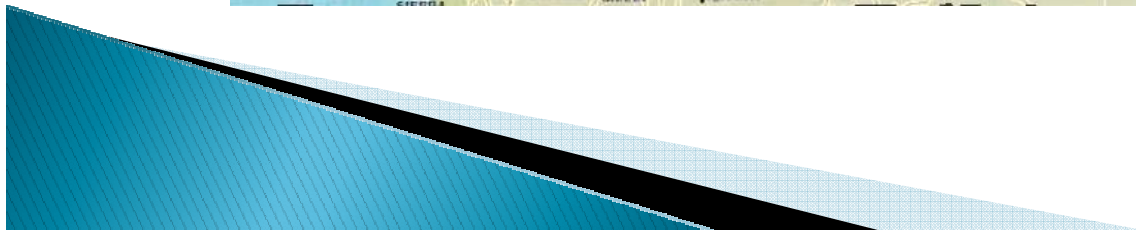
# Political Stability

- ▶ Since 2002, Turkey is governed by a highly popular political party.
- ▶ 2011 elections, 50 percent of voters opted for AK Party. Elections were democratic and uncontested. Such a result is the dream of all European politicians.
- ▶ Despite the continuation of certain important problems, the Turkish system now provides the necessary democratic channels for their resolution





# Foreign Policy:



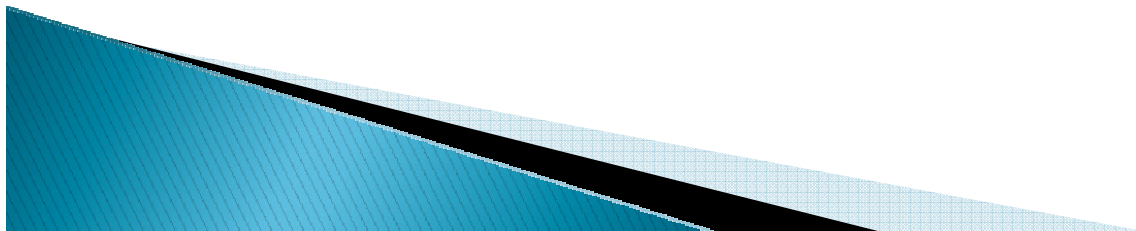
# Foreign Policy:

- ▶ What makes Turkey a truly emerging power is its ever growing economic, cultural and political ties with countries in all four directions.
- ▶ Our vision is to ensure a benign belt of security, stability and prosperity around Turkey and beyond.
- ▶ We envisage a world in 2023 of Peace at Home and Peace in the World where our broad neighborhood are liberated of the long standing problems that have holding them back.
- ▶ The underlying logic is very simple, yet sensible: We believe that Turkey is directly affected by every development in its neighborhood and that an environment of regional stability and cooperation will provide Turkey the best means to realize its potential as an emerging power.



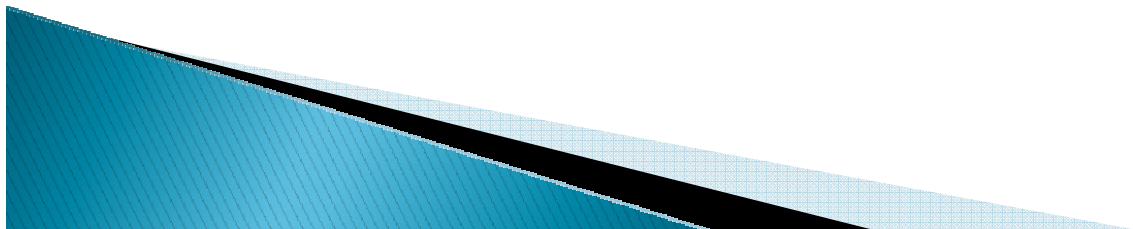
# Foreign Policy:

- ▶ This objective is reinforced by another target for the 100 years Anniversary of the Turkish Republic, which is to join the first ten biggest economies of the world.
- ▶ Turkey is increasingly a so-called trading state. Economics is important for any country.
- ▶ For a country such as Turkey that is one of the top 16 national economies in the world, the link and interaction between economy and foreign policy is a requirement.



# Foreign Policy:

- ▶ A close look at Turkey's foreign policy reveals close interaction between economy and foreign policy. Interaction works in three ways:
  - a. Turkey's strong economy has been providing confidence and assets to our foreign policy/e.g. \$1 billion dollars of official aid annually
  - b. Influence of Turkish entrepreneurs on Turkey's diplomatic reach
  - c. Turkey's foreign policy in the last ten years has created a new and much more positive perception of Turkey all over the world.



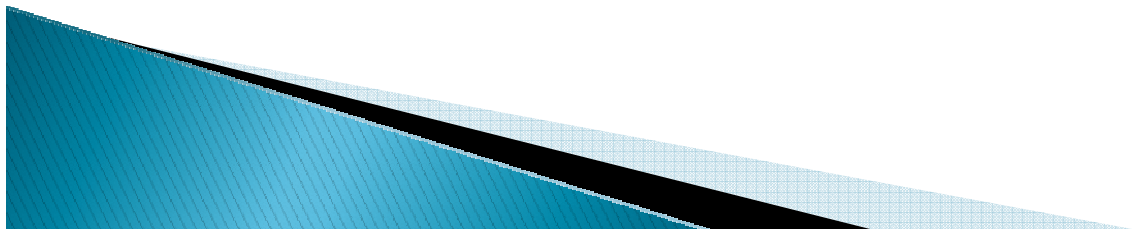


# TURKEY'S FOREIGN ASSISTANCE



# Foreign Policy:

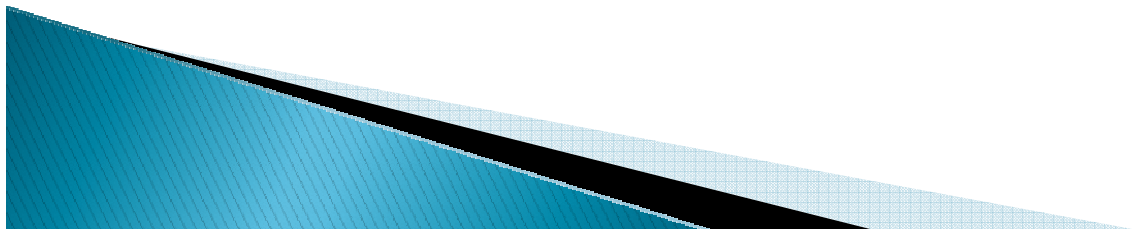
- ▶ We in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs try our best to further facilitate those economic opportunities by taking away all possible obstacles in the way of the mobility of people, ideas and capital.
- ▶ This is why we work extensively;
  - a. to abolish visa regimes,
  - b. further consolidate the legal infrastructure of economic relationships,
  - c. encourage Turkish Airlines to fly everywhere where there is a Turkish businessman,
  - d. open up new Embassies in various parts of the world/For instance in Africa alone, we have increased the number of our Embassies from 12 to 33 within three years.
  - e. In the last ten years we have lifted visa requirements with more than 15 countries from Brazil to Russia, Ukraine to Yemen.
  - f. We have also concluded 18 Free Trade Agreements



# Foreign Policy:

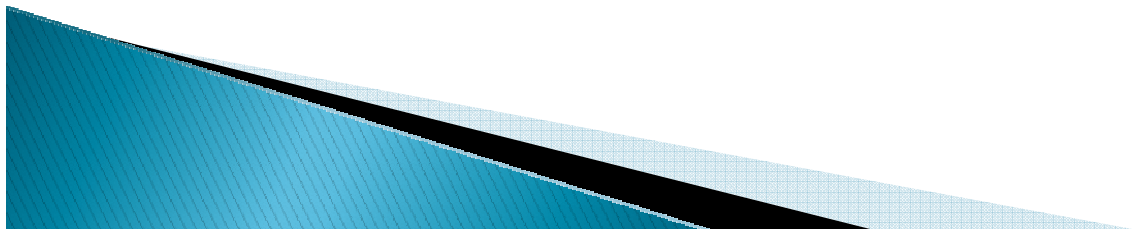
- ▶ The cumulative result: Turkey's “soft power” has been growing by leaps and bounds.
- ▶ *Turkish scholar Fuat Keyman notes that:*

“The global attraction to the country has stemmed not only from the geopolitical identity of Turkey, as a strong state with the capacity to function as a geopolitical security hinge in the intersection of the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasian regions, but also from its cultural identity as a modern national formation with parliamentary democratic governance, a secular constitutional structure, and a predominantly Muslim population.”



# Foreign Policy:

- ▶ Prominent figures in the showers of Arab Spring have highlighted the importance of Turkey as a model or example for the transformation of the Arab world.
- ▶ Turkey's demonstrative effect is a function of three developments:
  - a. the rise of the “trading state”, making Turkey visible through commerce, investment and trade;
  - b. the diffusion of Turkey's democratization experience as a “work in progress”;
  - c. the positive image of Turkey's “new” foreign policy, including the policies encouraging peace, cooperation and moderation in its broad vicinity.





# TURKEY'S DEMONSTRATIVE EFFECT

Lebanon



Egypt



Libya

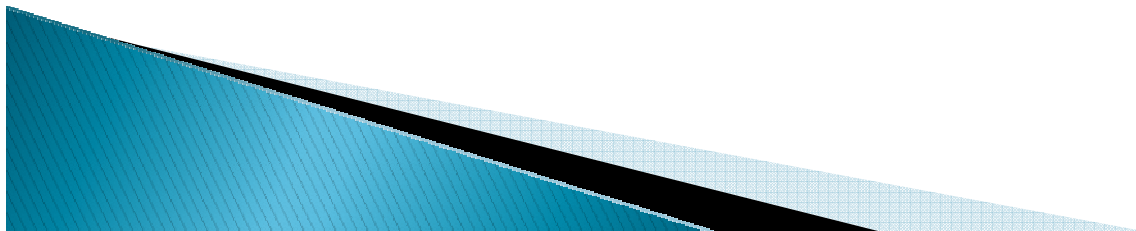


Tunisia



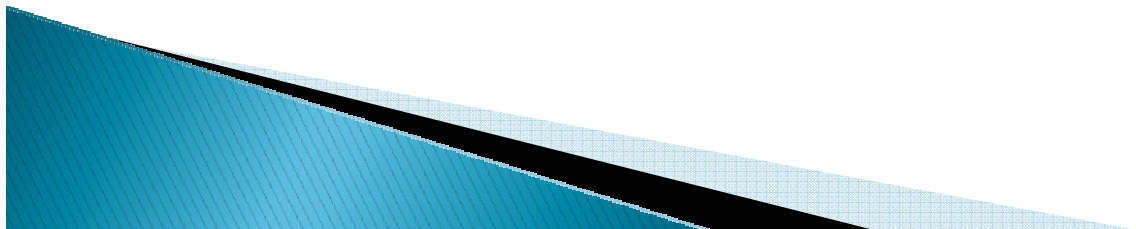
# Potential for Deeper Turkish-Italian Cooperation

- ▶ We have a very strong foundation to build upon. We should make use of it.
- ▶ On this foundation, we can compose a joint vision.
- ▶ The first step in this direction is to evaluate the unique strategic assets of Turkey and Italy that we can offer to each other to create a synergy to the benefit of our countries:
- ▶ Despite the current economic crisis, Italy possesses one of the largest production capacities of the world.



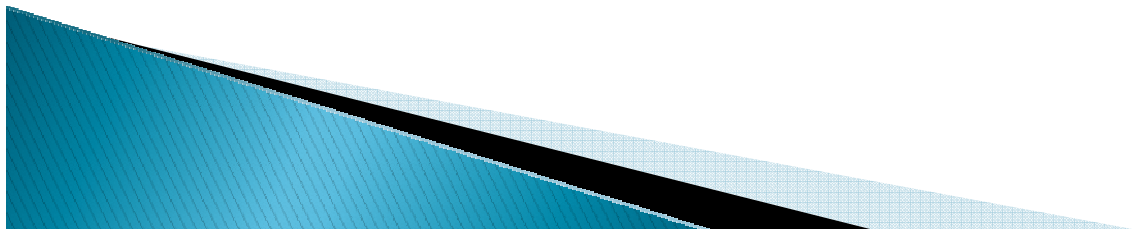
# Potential for Deeper Turkish-Italian Cooperation

- ▶ Notwithstanding the sovereign debt problem, Italian companies and households are largely debt free. In terms of the ratio of individual indebtedness, Italians can still be considered richer than their European peers.
- ▶ Turkey, on the other hand, has a magical formula: A combination of staggering economic growth, political stability and ever increasing political leverage in our broad neighborhood.



## Potential for Deeper Turkish-Italian Cooperation

- ▶ What we lack is what you have: “Made in Turkey” is yet to achieve the status of “made in Italy”.
- ▶ What you lack is what we possess: A very young, dynamic Turkish private sector, not intimidated by taking risks and encouraged by the strong cultural affinities and the positive reception of Turkey’s active foreign policies in a wide geography.
- ▶ Therefore, I see on the horizon an even closer Turkish-Italian partnership whereby Turks and Italians establish joint-ventures to internationalize their businesses.





**THANK YOU**

